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[Entered at the Postoffice of Alexandria, Vir-ginia, as second-class matter.]

PRESIDENT FINLEY'S RECOM-MENDATION.

Southern Railway Company. Office of the President Washington, D. C., July 31, 1908.

To the Editor of the Alexandria Gazette: Dear Sir: It has occurred to me that it may not be improper for me to address you and other representative editors in the southern states on a subject which I believe to be of great importance to the future prosperity of our section.

My duties require me to keep in touch, as nearly as possible, with business con-ditions throughout the country, and especially in the south. Since the beginning of the business depression from which the country is now recovering, I have been greatly impressed with evidence which has come to me that, while business all over the United States has been unfavorably affected the effects of the depression have been felt most severely, as a general rule, in those communities the energies of which are devoted principally to the production of a single commodity or of a few com-modities, and that business has been relatively less affect d in those commu-nities in which production is more diver-sified. I have been impressed especially with the fact that the business depres sion has been relatively less severe in these southern localities in which attention has been given to the growing of fruits and vegetables. There has been a s'esdy market for these products, and, although prices have not in some instances been as high as in other seasons, I be ieve they have generally yielded profits

to the growers.

The press of the south has already ac complished much by advocating diversific. t on of agriculture and manufactur-ing, and, looking back over the past twenty-five years, we can realize that much has been accomplished in this ditime is especially opportune for continu-ing our efforts in this direction and for urging that each southern community shall make the most of the opportunities which a revival of business will open up

Nature has favored the south with practically inexhaust ble resources of great variety, and the industrious and resourceful southern people have shown their ability to take up and carry to success new lines of industry. I believe, therefore, that you will agree with me as to the desirability of encouraging still greater diversification of industry the direction of ut lizing to the fullest extent the natural resources of our sec

Without attempting to enumerate the ines in which progress in this direction is possible, I would suggest that, in many localities, agricultural presperity cation of farming, especially in the di-rection of producing the fruits and vege-tables best suited for each locality; that live stock and dairying might profitably receive more attention in some localities, and that, in connection with a larger production of fruits and vegetables, there are many localities in which canning and preserving industries might profiby be carried on more extensively

than at present.
Industrially, I believe it should be that aim of the south to add to the profits of producing raw materials the profits of manufacturing, by converting sout ern raw materials, as far as possible, tuto articles ready for use. As indicating what may be done along this line, I may refer to the cotton textile industry Although the south has a substantial monopoly in the production of the mowidely used textile fibre in the world, some of us are old enough to remember when it was believed in many quarters that cotton manufacturing on a large scale could not be established success-fully in the south. The southern people first demonstr ted the r ability to make the coarser grades of cotton fabrics, and they are now demonstrating their ability to make the finer grades as well and to bleach and finish the products of their mills. I think we may look for-ward with confidence to the further development of this great industry and of industries depending upon it, such as the manufacture of cetton goods into

articles of clothing ready for wear. I might enumerate a long list of op-portuities for the further development of manufacturing. It would include the conversion, on a larger scale, of south-ern-made leather into boots and shoes, harness and belies in contract. harness and belting, in southern factories, and the conversion of the products of southern forests and mines into a long list of articles ready for use. I have said enough, however, to suggest to you the point I wish to make, which is, that I believe that all of us who have the prosperity of the south at heart should Mr. James P. Shannon, General do all in our power to encourage the Agent, will have a large well equipped diversification of southern industry and hospital tent on the bush meeting the conversion in southern factories of southern products it to articles ready for use rather than their shipment to other sections in the form of raw materials or of partly manufactured commodities. I

> that this company, through its Land Use DeWitt's Little Early Risers, p'easant little pills that are easy to take, Sold by W. F. Creighton & Co.

of a southern community, and you know

and Industrial Department, stands ready at all times to co-operate in every proper way with individuals and communities along its lines for the e-tablishment of new industries, the promotion of such immigration as may be desired by each community, and the general advance-ment of southern prosperity.

Yours very truly. W. W. FINLEY, President.

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A handsome 3-piece Parlor Suit, covered in a beautiful pattern of tapestry; regular \$45 Suit, at

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						\$1,225,210.53
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Nearly New Two-story Frame

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